Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 039177

73
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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 SAJ-01 EUR-25

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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TODEP 56, SALT, CANBERRA ONLY ZFF

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CANBERRA FOR RUSH AND PAO
VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE
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PAGE 02 STATE 039177

INFO FOR PAOS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY WEDNESDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE KISSINGER TRIP; SOME WEDNESDAY STORIES INCLUDE SALT. TUESDAY PAPERS REPORTED UNDERGROUND ATOMIC TEST SCHEDULED FOR TODAY TO DETONATE 2O TO 2OO KILOTONS. WEDNESDAY STORIES INCLUDE: MILITARY BUDGET SPURS ECONOMY; RUSSIANS WARN ON TRADE CURB; MOSCOW STORY, SOVIET REVS UP SPACE PROGRAM AFTER 2-YEAR BREAKDOWN; NIXON SAYS ALLIES MUST BUY US ARMS; BALTSUN REPORTS NATO OPTIMISTIC ON TROOP CUT; NIXON HAILS US ROLE IN VIETNAM, SAYS BEST WAY TO REPAY DEBT TO VETERANS IS TO HAVE A STRONG AMERICA MILITARILY, AN AMERICA RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AN AMERICA DESTINED TO BE PEACEMAKER OF THE WORLD.

2. SALT. NYTIMES GWERTZMAN DAMASCUS REPORTS SENIOR US OFFICIAL IN KISSINGER PARTY WHO DECLINED TO BE PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED SAID US HOPES NEW APPROACH TO SALT TALKS NOW BEING CONVEYED TO RUSSIANS WILL BRING FAVORABLE RESPONSE. NO MAJOR PROGRESS IS EXPECTED UNTIL KISSINGER GOES TO

MOSCOW LATE NEXT MONTH TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR NIXON VISIT MOSCOW LATE NEXT MONTH TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR NIXON VISIT. IF EVERYTHING GOES AS PLANNED SAYS GWERTZMAN, NIXON WILL FLY TO BRUSSELS IN LATTER PART OF APRIL TO SIGN DOCUMENTS CALLING FOR CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND US.

2A. WASHPOST BERGER DAMASCUS REPORTS HIGH US OFFICIAL WITH KISSINGER SAID US HAD NOW GIVEN SOVIET DELEGATION AT SALT TALKS ITS IDEAS ON "ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCIES" OF WEAPONS. AIM IS TO ESTABLISH CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH NEGOTIATORS CAN WORK OUT FORMULA FOR ESTABLISHING CONCRETE NUMBERS OF WEAPONS TO BE PERMITTED ON EACH SIDE. OFFICIAL SAID US IS TAKING COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH ALTHOUGH PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH MIRV IS MOST URGENT ONE. OFFICIAL SAID IF PROBLEM NOT SOLVED THIS YEAR, TECHNOLOGY MIGHT OUTSTRIP ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE LIMITATIONS. BUT HE SAID IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR SOVIETS TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING CLOSE TO TECHNOLOGICAL EQUALITY WITH US AND STILL CONCLUDE AGREEMENT ON DEPLOYMENT OF MIRVS. WHILE PROBLEM OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS CLOSE TO SOVIET BORDERS CONTINUES TO UNCLASSIFIED

BE ISSUE AT SALT, THERE IS INDICATION THAT US GOVERNMENT MAY BE EXAMINING RELATIONSHIP OF US AIRBASES IN EUROPE TO SALT. HIGH US OFFICIAL WITH KISSINGER SAID BASES ARE NOW ESSENTIALLY EXCLUDED FROM SALT DISCUSSIONS INDICATING FIRST SIGN OF SOME POSSIBLE US GIVE ON ISSUE. OFFICIAL DECLINED TO PREDICT WHETHER SALT AGREEMENT WOULD BE CONCLUDED IN TIME FOR NIXON TRIP TO MOSCOW IN JUNE BUT SAID ONCE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK IS APPROVED BY BOTH SIDES,

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

AN AGREEMENT ON NUMBERS CAN BE ACHIEVED FAIRLY RAPIDLY.

2B. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES HAS BRIEF REUTERS GENEVA REPORTING SALT NEGOTIATORS MET FOR ONE HOUR 35 MINUTES IN 53RD SESSION AND CONTINUED INFORMAL EXCHANGES AFTERWARD, ACCORDING CONFERENCE SOURCES.

2C. SATURDAY LATIMES HAD GENEVA REUTERS REPORTING SALT NEGOTIATORS MET FRIDAY FOR TWO HOURS TEN MINUTES, ACCORDING CONFERENCE SOURCES. REUTERS ADDED NEITHER SIDE DISCLOSED DETAILS OF THE SECRET DISCUSSIONS AT US MISSION. CONFEREES AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR EXCHANGES TUESDAY.

2D. TUESDAY NYTIMES HAD EDITORIAL, SALT RESUMES,SAYING AFTER YEAR OF FUTILE SPARRING AND 3-MONTH RECESS SALT TALKS HAVE RESUMED IN MOOD OF DEEP SERIOUSNESS. PRESIDENT NIXON'S NEW INSTRUCTIONS EVIDENTLY GAVE FIRST PRIORITY TO SEEKING AN AGREED CONCEPTUAL BASIS INSTEAD OF THE DETAILED, COMPLICATED AND UNREALISTIC PROPOSALS BOTH SIDES TABLED LAST YEAR AS OPENING PLOYS. EDITORIAL

SAYS SHOULD BE CLEAR BY END OF MARCH WHEN KISSINGER GOES TO MOSCOW WHETHER OR NOT AN AGREED CONCEPT CAN BE ACHIEVED QUICKLY, IN TIME FOR A SALT TWO PACT THIS YEAR. NYTIMES HOLDS THAT RUSSIA'S MIRVED MISSILES COULD TURN THE ASYMMETRIC BALANCE OF SALT ONE INTO SOVIET SUPERIORITY BY EARLY 198O'S UNLESS AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED LIMITING BOTH SIDES TO APPROXIMATELY EQUAL DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITY. EDITORIAL SAYS KISSINGER REPORTEDLY WOULD SEEK THAT ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE--THE ONLY OBJECTIVE ON WHICH THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS MORE OR LESS AGREED IN THEORY--
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BY LIMITING DEPLOYMENT OF NEW MIRVED MISSILES, AND CIA EVIDENTLY HAS HIGH CONFIDENCE IT COULD VERIFY SUCH AN AGREEMENT BY SATELLITE AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE. SOME MEMBERS OF JOINT CHIEFS REPORTEDLY FAVOR HIGHER AGREED LIMITS ON MIRVS MARKING A NEW UPWARD SPIRAL IN ARMS RACE, WHEREAS SCHLESINGER REPORTEDLY FAVORS SALT TWO AGREEMENT REDUCING SOVIET MISSILE PAYLOAD ADVANTAGE BY FORCE CUTS ON BOTH SIDES. TIMES SAYS NOTHING COULD BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN BARGAINING CHIP APPROACH OF SALT ONE WHICH ADDED TO EACH SIDE ABOUT A HYDROGEN WARHEAD PER DAY DURING THIRTY MONTHS OF NEGOTIATION. SUCH RACE MUST BE HALTED BY SALT TWO AGREEMENT THIS YEAR.

2E. WEDNESDAY BALTSUN DAMASCUS SPECIAL STRESSES US HAS RESOLVED INTERNAL SPLIT OVER SALT AND REPORTS US OFFICIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SAID VERIFICATION PANEL HAS AGREED ON A FORMULA THAT
WOULD PERMIT A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE STRATEGIC VALUES
OF THE VARIOUS SOVIET AND US NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS, AND
PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO SOVIET SALT DELEGATION BUT
SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET RESPONDED. KEY ISSUE OF
SALT TWO, SAYS SPECIAL, IS CALCULATION OF RELATIVE VALUES
OF DIFFERENT DELIVERY SYSTEMS SUCH AS MISSILES,
BOMBERS, MIRVS, AND SINGLE WARHEADS, AND ONLY RECENTLY
DID KISSINGER SCHLESINGER RECONCILE THE VIEWS OF THEIR
RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS, AND SIMILAR DIFFICULTY IS EX-
PECTED ON MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMULA AT SALT. SPECIAL
ADDS SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAID HE DIDN'T EXPECT A NEGOTIABLE
SOVIET RESPONSE UNTIL KISSINGER VISITS MOSCOW IN LAST
TWO WEEKS OF MARCH, AND ADMINISTRATION HOPES TO CONCLUDE
SALT IN TIME FOR NIXON TO SIGN AGREEMENTS IN MOSCOW IN
JUNE, BUT THE SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID IT IS POSSIBLE FOR RE-
NEWED DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION EVEN AFTER
US-RUSS AGREEMENT ON A FORMULA WHEN IT COMES TIME TO
ACCEPT PARTICULAR NUMBERS OF WEAPONS UNDER THE AGREED
FORMULA.

3. MILITARY BUDGET. WASHPOST LOCAL STOR REPORTS
REP. MAHON SAID HE WAS TOLD 5 BILLIONS WERE ADDED YO
DEFENSE BUDGET TO HELP STIMULATE ECONOMY, INCLUDING AIR-
CRAFT INDUSTRY; SCHLESINGER SAID EXTRA AMOUNT IS MORE LIKE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 039177

ONE OR 1.5 BILLIONS.

4. NATO. WASHPOST HAS LOCAL REUTER REPORTING NIXON HAS
TOLD CONGRESS THAT NATO COUNTRIES MUST BUY A HIGH LEVEL
OF AMERICAN MILITARY HADRWARE TO HELP OFFSET COST OF
MAINTAINING US TROOPS IN EUROPE, ACCORDING REP.
RANDALL, CHAIRMAN SUBCOMMITTEE OF ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE,
AS HE OPENED HEARINGS ON US MILITARY COMMITMENTS IN
EUROPE. AFTER HEARING PRESIDENT,S REPORT SAYING TROOP
DEPLOYMENT HAS RESULTED IN 2.1 BILLION BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS
DEFICIT, GROUP WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION TO HEAR DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECETARY OF DEFENSE BERGOLD ON NATO AFFAIRS AND
EFFECT OF MIDEAST WAR. REUTER NOTES ADMINISTRATION
IS UNDER INJUNCTION FROM CONGRESS TO REDUCE AMERICAN
FORCES BY SAME PERCENTAGE BY WHICH NATO MEMBERS FAIL TO
MAKE UP DEFICIT.

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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